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Forest ministers conclude successful meetings in Fredericton (08/09/11)

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FREDERICTON (CNB) - Forest ministers from across Canada wrapped up the annual meeting of the Canadian Council of Forest Ministers (CCFM) today in Fredericton.

The ministers discussed new ways to address current and future challenges facing the forest sector, and reaffirmed their continuing commitment to manage Canada's forests sustainably.

"In these times of change we are dealing with two issues of national importance: transforming the forest sector to create economic opportunities, and addressing climate change," said Natural Resources Minister Donald Arseneault, who chaired the conference. "Sustainability remains the priority. The issues of economic opportunity and climate change will be addressed within the context of sustainable forest management."

The ministers were pleased with the progress made on the national forest pest strategy. In particular, they noted good progress on the establishment of a national risk analysis framework, as well as other groundwork for the sharing of information and resources that will allow for a more effective and co-ordinated response to pests that are detrimental to Canadian forests.

The CCFM was established in 1985 to provide a forum for federal, provincial and territorial governments to work co-operatively to address issues of common interest. The CCFM provides leadership on national and international issues and sets direction for the stewardship and sustainable management of Canada's forests.

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